not an argument. It is a fact that he has opposed it. We urge upon all who have the national interest, the interest of this country and the interest of the people of this country before them to support this Resolution. Mr. Barnala himself in a statement on the 10th of July had clearly demanded that there should be some firm action on the border. He had stated that he is not satisfied himself with the arrangements at the border. Here is the Statement of Mr. Barnala with me. I do not know why there is a change in his stand now. May be because of some political compulsions. It is very unfortunate.

I have onl ythis appeal to make...

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: With Mr. Barnala not being present, putting words in his mouth is totally incorrect.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: But others have also referred to Mr. Barnala. It is strange when I refer to the Chief Minister of Punjab, it is being objected to, but when others referred in support of their argument, it has been tolerated and allowed.

To conclude, I appeal to my friends in the Opposition to support this Resolution which is in the national interest. I will urge them to reconsider their stand when they have themselves admitted that the situation is an extraordinary one, when they have themselves acknowledged that the situation on the border, inflow of weapons, training of terrorists across the border poses a serious threat to the country. There are certain issues which should be kept out of the ambit of political controversies. The ruling party and the Opposition do have debates and they have difference of ideology. They oppose our programmes. That is immaterial. That is a part of the democratic functioning. That is how debates must take place. But there are certain issues where national interest and security is involved. There no political controversy should be there. There the Opposition must come forward and support the Prime Minister and the Government in meeting this challenge before the country. This is the need of the hour. This is a critical juncture before the nation. Situation is grave and, for all of us who call ourselves as Indians, have our bounden duty to rise to the occasion and support this Resolution, support the Government, support all those who are opposed to terrorism, those who are opposed to violence, and support those who believe in the unity and strength of India.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Assassination of General A. S. VAIDYA, former Chief of Army Staff

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Sir, the House is aware of the very sad incident regarding the assassination of General A. S. Vaidya, retired Chief of the Army Staff who was shot dead by some persons at Pune on 10th August, 1986. According to information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, General Vaidya, accompanied by his wife and a plain clothed armed bodyguard was driving his car from the camp area presumably towards his house in Koregaon Park at about 11.45 hrs on that day. As his car reached near Bungalow No. 18, Queens Garden and slowed down to take a right turn, four young persons on two two-wheelers overtook the car from both sides. One motor cycle went ahead and the persons riding it shot at General Vaidya from point blank range. After firing, the miscreants fled away. The bodyguard accompanying General Vaidya jumped out of the car and took the General in a tempo to the Army Command Hospital, Pune where attempts to save his life proved futile. Mrs. Vaidya was also injured in the incident and was admitted in the hospital. She is reported to be out of danger and has since been discharged from the hospital.

2. The police has recovered two bullets and three empty cartridges from the site of the incident. One bullet has been extracted from the body of General Vaidya. The

[Shri Buta Singh]

miscreants are believed to have fired eight to nine rounds. The motor cycle used by the miscreants was reportedly stolen from a place in Deccan Gymkhana Police station limits at about 10.30 hrs on 10th August, 1986, and was subsequently found abandoned by the Police on the same day in the Decan Gymkhana area.

3. Immediately after the incident the Police started operation to apprehend the assailants. The concerned authorities in the State have been alerted and all out efforts are being made to nab the culprits.

4. Security was provided to General Vaidya since 16th April, 1986. Three gunmen were attached to General Vaidya. One gunman was provided to the General during the day and two gunmen were on duty during the night. The gunmen were directed to accompany the General whenever he went out. General Vaidya wrote to the Commisioner of Police, Pune, on 15th July, 1986, forwarding copies of threatening letters received by him after which the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Branch) met General Vaidya on 16th July, 1986 and reviewed the existing security arrangements with him. The security of General Vaidya was placed under the overall charge of a Sub-Inspector of Police. The security staff posted with the General was alerted and rotated. The Commissioner of Police, Pune, met the General on several occasions and reviewed the security arrangements with him. He last met the General on the 8th of August, 1986. It is unfortunate that despite these arrangements the incident occurred.

5. General Vaidya was a gallant and distinguished soldier who served India with devotion. His loss would be mourned by one and all. Words fail me to condemn this destardly deed which cut short the life of a dedicated soldier. I would appeal to the House to join me in conveying our heart-felt sympathies to the bereaved family.

6.00 P.M.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): What about seeking clarifications?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow after the voting.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION—

IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE 249 OF THE CONSTITUTION—Contd.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Resolution tabled by the hon. Home Minister. Sir, I do not accuse the Government of not trying for a consensus. The Government did try to arrive at a consensus on this Resolution. But I am sorry to say that neither the charm of the Prime Minister nor the persuasive powers of the Home Minister could convince us of the need for such a Resolution.

Sir, while opposing the Resolution, I made it clear that our party upholds the nation's unity and integrity. We are second to none in helping the Government in dealing with the current situation in Punjab and elsewhere and in our keenness for re-establishment of peace in this area.

Sir, I oppose the Resolution on various grounds:

Firstly, the Resolution does not offer a real solution to the problem.

Secondly, we are against the Article 249 itself and we wanted its deletion from the Constitution, because it erodes the powers of the States and encroaches upon the powers of the States.

Thirdly, we feel the Centre has already got enough powers and it does not need any more powers.

Fourthly, the minimum courtesy which the Government of India should observe while taking recourses to such Resolution, that is, consulting the State Government